

REMARKS:

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's several discussions with Applicant's attorney regarding this application.

5 By the foregoing amendment, Applicant responds fully to the Final Office Action dated July 18, 2006. Claim 10 has been amended by the present amendment. Claims 10-13 remain pending in the instant application.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia (USPN 3,400,408) in view of Chen (USPN 6,322,091).

10 Claim 10 has been amended by the present amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Specifically, Claim 10 has been amended to additionally recite that the sleeve module has a length and a first end and a second end, and a first slit being along said length at said first end and a second slit along said length at said second end. Claim 10 has been further
15 amended to recite that the said sleeve module has a first clamp at said first end and a second clamp at said second end.

In order for a claim to be obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, the references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP 8th Ed., Rev. 1, §706.02(j), (February 2003). Further, "[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed
20 invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." See MPEP 8th Ed., Rev. 1 §2143.03, (February 2003).

Claim 10 now recites limitations not shown, taught or suggested by Garcia and Chen (i.e the newly added limitations). In this regard, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claim 10, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

5 Claims 11 - 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia in view of Chen. Claims 11 - 13 depend from Claim 10, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore believed that Claims 11 - 13 are now in condition for allowance as well.

In summary, Applicant responds fully to the Office Action dated July 18, 2006. Applicant believes that the present application containing claims 10-13 is in
10 condition for allowance. Favorable action to that end respectfully requested.

Signed at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, this 13 day of September, 2006.

15

Respectfully Submitted,

20



Nicholas A. Brannen
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 51,224

25 104 South Main Street, Suite 300
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
Telephone: 920-322-9130
Fax: 920-322-9131
nab@brannenlawoffice.com